

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner Nichols and SPE Examiner Kunz for conducting a telephone interview with Applicant's attorneys on October 6, 2003 at which the Office Action mailed May 16, 2003 and the response filed August 18, 2003 were discussed.

The specification has been amended to conform with the five replacement sheets submitted herewith. The paragraph beginning on page 7, line 27 of the specification describes Figure 15. The paragraph has been replaced with six replacement paragraphs, which describe Figures 15A-15E, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, and 15E, respectively. The paragraph beginning on page 80, line 1 has also been amended to identify Figures 15A-15E. Additionally, the paragraphs beginning on page 76, line 17, and page 77, line 3, have been amended to conform the alum concentration to the alum concentration recited in Figure 15 as filed in Application No. 09/201,430, filed November 30, 1998, which is incorporated herein by reference.

In the response filed August 18, 2003 to the Office Action mailed May 16, 2003, Applicant overlooked the non-statutory double patenting rejections set forth in ¶¶ 13-14.

U.S. Application No. 09/979,701

Claims 1-12, 14-15, 19-23, and 26 are provisionally rejected for same invention double patenting over claims 1-47 of copending U.S. Application No. 09/979,701. Applicant notes the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6 is mooted by their cancellation. Applicants propose this issue be held in abeyance until indication of allowability in the present case. Applicant will then consider providing a terminal disclaimer over cited cases provided the cited case has been or is about to patented, the claims in the cited case have not been divided from those in the present case by restriction requirement or election of species, and the claims in the cited case are in conflict with those in the present case at this time.

U.S. Application No. 09/580,018

Claims 1-12, 14-15, 19-23, and 26 are provisionally rejected for same invention double patenting over claims 1-41 and 44-47 of copending U.S. Application No. 09/580,018. Applicant notes the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6 is mooted by their cancellation. Regarding U.S. Application No. 09/580,018, Applicant also notes that claims 10 and 26 have been

Application No. 09/724,961
Supplemental Amendment dated October 10, 2003
Supplemental Reply to Office Action mailed May 16, 2003

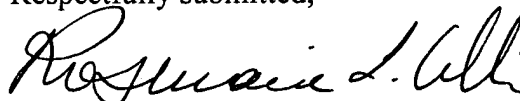
cancelled and claim 47 has been withdrawn. Applicant proposes this issue be held in abeyance until indication of allowability in the present case. Applicant will then consider providing a terminal disclaimer over cited cases provided the cited case has been or is about to patented, the claims in the cited case have not been divided from those in the present case by restriction requirement or election of species, and the claims in the cited case are in conflict with those in the present case at this time.

U.S. Application No. 09/497,553

Claims 1-12, 14-15, 19-23, and 26 stand provisionally rejected for obviousness type double patenting over claims 42 and 43 of U.S. Application No. 09/497,533. Applicants propose this issue be held in abeyance until indication of allowability in the present case. Applicant will then consider providing a terminal disclaimer over cited cases provided the cited case has been or is about to patented, the claims in the cited case have not been divided from those in the present case by restriction requirement or election of species, and the claims in the cited case are in conflict with those in the present case at this time.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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